

Science, she has to be intimately familiar with the details and the appropriate way to allocate funds that are vital for our civilian program to go forward in the visionary and frontier breaking manner that it always has and I am grateful for her leadership. I wanted to add this to the accolades that she so well deserves and has already heard from so many of our colleagues.

Senator MIKULSKI began her tenure in Congress in 1977 as a member of the House of Representatives. She represented Maryland's Third District for ten years before moving to the Senate in 1986.

During her time in the Senate, Senator MIKULSKI has been a champion for many of the issues that are particularly important to my fellow Floridians and me. She is a strong supporter of veterans' and seniors' issues.

Senator MIKULSKI has also worked to protect our oceans by supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, especially during one of the worst environmental disasters we've seen. In 2010 she conducted a subcommittee hearing to explore the use of dispersants in response to the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf, helping us to better understand the long-term consequences of that environmental tragedy.

Senator MIKULSKI also serves as Chairman for the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Children and Families. In December, she chaired a hearing on child abuse, casting light on this issue and urging her colleagues to take greater steps to combat it.

I am honored to have served with Senator MIKULSKI for the past decade, and I look forward to continuing to work with her on matters of great importance to Maryland, Florida, and the rest of the country.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in honoring the service of the Senator from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, on becoming the longest-serving woman in the history of Congress. She is an inspiration, a mentor, and a friend, and I congratulate her on achieving this historic milestone.

The story of BARBARA MIKULSKI is the story of the American Dream. The daughter of a grocer in Baltimore, she learned what it meant to do a hard day's work. She got good grades, went to college, and eventually got her Master's Degree in Social Work.

When she was in her 20's, she got involved in a fight to stop a highway proposal that would have cut through a working-class neighborhood. She stopped that highway and saved the homes of the families who lived there.

Those families saw something that day that all of us would recognize today: a woman of passion, hard work, and determination.

Throughout her years of service, she has reflected these values day in and day out as she has fought for America's

working families. She understands that our country needs to make things and grow things if we are going to have a middle class and an American Dream. She understands the dignity of work, and how important that is to families who want to create a better future for their children, just as BARBARA's family did for her.

And in her many years of leadership and service, she has been fighting every day to create a better future for every little girl and boy in Maryland. She did not come here for the power; she came here to serve. And I think that is why the people of Maryland have chosen her, time and time again, to be their champion in the U.S. Senate.

In the whole history of the United States, 1,931 people have served in the U.S. Senate. Of those, 39 were women. And of those, 17 are serving right now. And of those, only one—Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI—is our Dean and our mentor.

I want to thank my friend, Senator MIKULSKI, for all she has done for me and for all the women who will follow in her footsteps in the years to come.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, the Senate is in the midst of recognizing a very important milestone in our history. I would like to join my Senate colleagues in congratulating Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI as the longest serving female Member of Congress.

As we all know, Senator MIKULSKI has dedicated her life to public service. Before running for public office, Senator MIKULSKI worked as a social worker helping at-risk children and educating seniors on Medicare. In 1971, she successfully ran for her first public office and was elected to serve in the Baltimore City Council, where she served for 5 years.

Senator MIKULSKI first ran for Congress in 1976, seeking to represent Maryland's Third District. She won that race and went on to hold the seat for a decade. In 1986 she decided to run for the U.S. Senate, and she has been serving here ever since. The Senate was a very different place when she first arrived as one of two women Senators. She not only had to learn how the Senate functioned but had a quick lesson in bipartisanship—as the other woman, Nancy Kassebaum-Baker, was a Republican from Kansas. Today, we have 17 women in the Senate and 76 women serving in the House of Representatives.

Senator MIKULSKI has been an outspoken advocate for working people everywhere. Due in large part to her leadership and strong advocacy on behalf of women, our daughters and granddaughters will have opportunities that were not available to many women in the past. She is a wonderful role model through her dedication to public service, as she fights passionately every day for the people of Maryland that she is here to represent.

And so I want to add my voice to those praising Senator MIKULSKI as she reaches this important milestone. She

is a true pioneer, a strong example of a smart legislator, and an outspoken voice for working people. I have great respect for the journey she has taken, and I am proud to serve alongside her.

JOBS ACT

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on H.R. 3606, the JOBS Act, which we passed in the Senate last Thursday, March 22, 2012 by a vote of 73-26. I am very pleased that this legislation passed with such strong bipartisan support, particularly because it includes a measure which I authored to update the shareholder threshold before which banks must register their securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Title VI of the JOBS Act is based off of S. 1941, which I introduced on December 5, 2011 with Senator MARK PRYOR. Section 601 of this title increases the registration threshold for banks and bank holding companies to 2,000 persons and the deregistration threshold to 1,200 person.

As the author of Title VI of the JOBS Act, I welcome today's consideration of H.R. 3606 in the House of Representatives and the endorsement that President Obama has given this job-creating legislation in a Statement of Administration Policy. The new thresholds for registration and deregistration are effective upon the President's signature since no rulemaking is necessary. It is the intent of Congress that this new law should apply immediately to banks and bank holding companies so that they can raise additional capital to increase lending in their communities.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize the dedication of women service members and women veterans in celebration of Women's History Month.

Women have played an important role in our Nation's military from the time of our Founding Fathers. Today, women make up 15 percent of the Active-Duty military and 18 percent of Guard and Reserve forces. Our women soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen have served courageously in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have played a variety of roles ranging from convoy leaders to fighter pilots to field medics. I am inspired by their bravery and their dedication to our country.

Already women make up nearly 10 percent of the veteran population, a proportion that Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, expects to grow over the next decade. VA has already come a long way in addressing the unique health needs and challenges that women face. A generation ago, VA would have been the last place that we would associate with women's health, but just this past January, VA marked an important milestone in caring for